V. REMARKS

Applicants are perplexed that the Office Action indicates that claims 2-5 and 7 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form that includes all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. It is respectfully submitted that claim 2 is an independent claim. Thus, claims 2-5 should be allowed.

Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as unpatentable over Minegishi et al. (US Patent Application Publication Number 2002/0088423). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Minegishi teaches an air intake apparatus that includes an air chamber, an air intake passage, a drive member, a connection member and a ball-like member. The air chamber is connected commonly to a plurality of intake pipes for supplying intake air to an internal combustion engine. The air intake passage is connected fluidly between the intake pipe and the air chamber. A switching valve blocks the flow in the air intake passage. The drive member operates the switching member. The connection member connects the drive member and the switching member. The ball-like member is provided between the connection member and the switching member. Movement between the connection member and the switching member is transferred through the ball-like member.

Claim 1, as amended, is directed to a resin intake manifold comprising an integrally formed base member having a U-shaped curved distribution passage lower surface wall portion, an engine mounting flange portion formed in one end of the distribution passage lower surface wall portion, and a surge tank peripheral wall portion formed in another end and a lower surface side of the distribution passage lower surface wall portion, wherein a resonator peripheral wall portion is integrally formed in a dead space in a lower surface side of the distribution passage lower surface wall portion and between the surge tank peripheral wall portion and the engine mounting flange portion, claim 1 recites that the resonator is provided as a structure body in the dead space between the surge tank and the engine mounting flange.

It is respectfully submitted that the Office Action indicates allowable subject matter in claim 2 and that claim 1, as amended, now includes all of the features of claim 2. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that claim 1 is now allowable over the art for the reasons that claim 2 is allowable over the art.

Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claim 6 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as unpatentable over Japan 2002-147299. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 6, as amended, is directed to a resin intake manifold provided with a surge tank arranged between a throttle body and an engine and reserving an air, and a plurality of branch pipes including end branch pipes and inner branch pipes disposed between the end branch pipes and each having a discharge port connected to each of cylinders of an engine in one end and forming an air passage, and evenly distributing the air to each of the cylinders of the engine. Claim 6 recites that air passage center positions of a plurality of branch pipes are arranged in a curved shape so as to make the air passage center positions of the inner branch pipes disposed further away from a cut surface passing through the surge tank relative to the air passage center positions of the end branch pipes. Claim 6 also recites that a wall portion of the surge tank in an opposite surface to the branch pipe with respect to the surge tank is formed in a curved shape expanded in a center portion.

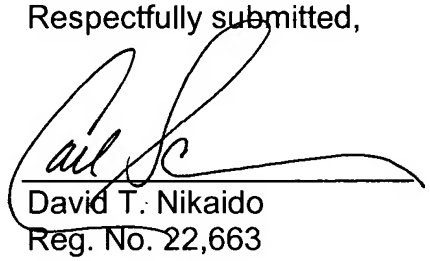
It is respectfully submitted that the applied art fails to teach or suggest the features of claim 6 as amended. Specifically, it is respectfully submitted that the applied art fails to teach or suggest a plurality of branch pipes that includes end branch pipes and inner branch pipes disposed between the end branch pipes with the plurality of branch pipes being arranged in a curved shape so as to make the air passage center positions of the inner branch pipes disposed further away from a cut surface passing through the surge tank relative to the air passage center positions of the end branch pipes. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that one of ordinary skill in the art would not be motivated to modify the features of the applied art because the applied art is devoid of such features. As a result, it is respectfully submitted that claim 6 is allowable over the applied art.

Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration of the application and allowance of the pending claims are respectfully requested. Should the Examiner believe anything further is desirable in order to place the application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' representative at the telephone number listed below.

Should additional fees be necessary in connection with the filing of this paper or if a Petition for Extension of Time is required for timely acceptance of the same, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 18-0013 for any such fees and Applicant(s) hereby petition for such extension of time.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: September 15, 2005 By: 

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Enclosure(s): Amendment Transmittal

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